



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

Correspondence Received

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
SHEILA KUEHL
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
18.		Favor	Angela M MooneyDarcy	
			Damon Nagami	<p>Dear Supervisors:</p> <p>I was recently appointed by Supervisor Mitchell to the Los Angeles County Beach Commission, and am writing today to express my support for her and Supervisor Hahn's motion to complete the return of Bruce's Beach to the legal heirs of Charles and Willa Bruce (6/28/22 BOS meeting, agenda item #18). Passing this motion would allow this land to be returned to the remaining descendants of the Bruce Family, restore the family's namesake, and correct a historical injustice inflicted because of racism and prejudice.</p> <p>I'm also writing to express my support for comments that were provided to the Board earlier today by Angela Mooney D'Arcy with Sacred Places Institute (SPI). As you may have seen, SPI is asking for, among other things, the motion to include language recognizing that Bruce's Beach is located in the ancestral homelands of the Gabrielino Tongva People. Ms. Mooney D'Arcy's letter raises important questions that, in her words, "must be addressed in an intentional and thoughtful manner as there can be no healing if healing for one community rests on the erasure of another community."</p> <p>Thank you to Supervisors Mitchell and Hahn for introducing the motion, and to all of you for considering these comments.</p> <p>Best regards, Damon Nagami</p>



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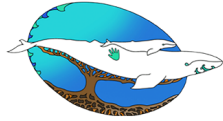
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			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
18.		Favor	George C Fatheree	<p>Good morning, I am speaking in support of item #18 and general public comment.</p> <p>My name is George Fatheree, I am a partner at the Sidley Austin law firm and for the past almost 1 and a half years, I've had the privilege of representing the descendants of Willa and Charles Bruce, which my law firm has done on a pro bono basis.</p> <p>I address the Board this morning on behalf of myself and on behalf of my clients, to express our support for the Completing the Return of Bruce's Beach to the Legal Heirs of Charles and Willa Bruce resolution.</p> <p>Returning the Bruce's Beach property to the descendants of Willa and Charles Bruce is not only the right thing to do for my clients – it will finally allow their family to have some sense of closure on what was a tragic and devastating event for their ancestors – but it is the right thing to do for all of us. By acknowledging our government's past failures in living up to the rights held sacred to our democracy and by taking steps in the spirit of responsibility and reconciliation, we advance our collective faith in democracy and in our government institutions. We both strengthen and heal.</p> <p>I want to thank and acknowledge the County leadership and staff who have worked tirelessly to get us to this point today. We thank Supervisors Hahn and Mitchell, all of the supervisors and in particular, Thomas Faughnan and Dr. D'Artaganan Scorza, and their respective teams, who approached this work with thoughtfulness, care, diligence, creativity and above all, a commitment to doing the right thing. The County and its residents are fortunate to have such capable and committed public servants dedicating their time and talents to our most pressing issues. And I am grateful for their partnership and collaboration in navigating this uncharted process.</p> <p>Again, I thank the Board for its landmark leadership on this matter and encourage the Supervisors to support the resolution. To our knowledge, this is the first time the government has returned property to a Black family after acknowledging it had been improperly taken – we are hopeful that it will not be the last.</p>
			Helen Stafford	So excited that we can be on the road to justice!
			Jesse Ramirez	
			Kellan Martz	Please pass this quickly and direct staff to have this land transferred as expeditiously as possible to the Bruce heirs. This has been a long time coming and they deserve to close this transaction and move on with their lives as soon as possible. Thank you all for making this happen, especially Supervisors Mitchell and Hahn.
			Maria Brooks	

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
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18.		Favor	Pastor Cue Jn Marie	It's about time- completing the return of Bruce's beach- I live in Supervisor Hahn's district and I thank you for championing this. thanks to Supervisor Mitchell for working on this as well. This is important because oftentimes Black folks are treated as if we don't belong in Manhattan beach.
			Phyllis Chestang	
		Item Total	9	
Grand Total			9	



SACRED PLACES INSTITUTE
FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

June 27, 2022

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Comments on Agenda Item 18 Completing the Return of Bruce's Beach to the Legal Heirs of Charles and Willa Bruce

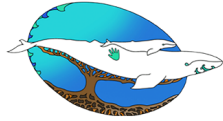
Dear Supervisors:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments on behalf of Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples (SPI). SPI is a California Indigenous-led, grassroots environmental and cultural justice organization dedicated to building the capacity of Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples to protect sacred lands, waters and cultures. We are located in the unceded ancestral homelands of the Tongva Gabrielino people.

Please note, these comments represent the perspective of Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples. We strive to honor, respect, and uplift the perspectives of the Native Nations on whose lands we live and work. While SPI has multiple staff and board members from the Native Nations on whose homelands Los Angeles County is built, we are a California-Indigenous led organization and not a sovereign Native American Tribe. In the event that any of our comments are in conflict with the goals and desires of the California Native American Tribes on whose territories Los Angeles is built, we defer to those Tribes.

SPI acknowledges the relationship between the doctrine of discovery, settler colonial attempts to enslave and commit genocide against Black and Indigenous Peoples throughout the United States and the world, and recognizes the injustices inflicted upon Black People and Black Communities by the governments and private citizens of those governments that now claim jurisdiction over Indigenous homelands throughout California and the United States. We, therefore, support the work on behalf of Los Angeles County to return Bruce's Beach to the legal heirs of Charles and Willa Bruce. SPI also acknowledges that not all tribal community members support this action.

As written, the current draft motion fails to recognize the Indigenous Peoples on whose sacred lands and waters Bruce's Beach was established and who were violently and forcibly displaced from these homelands hundreds of years ago. The Indigenous Peoples are further erased by being left out of the conversation around the return of Bruce's Beach. *Why do these efforts of healing not reach Native people? How will this resolution intersect with other County resolutions that acknowledge Native people*



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FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

of this land often face impediments to accessing their own ancestral lands now owned by the County?
These are critical questions that must be addressed in an intentional and thoughtful manner as there can be no healing if healing for one community rests on the erasure of another community.

We therefore call on the Board of Supervisors to take the following actions.

1. Adopt the Resolution with the following amendments to Section 2:

Acknowledge the Gabrielino Tongva as the original caretakers of the land;

Adopt the resolution making findings in support of, and approving and authorizing, the return of the Property to the legal heirs of Charles and Willa Bruce (Attachment A) *with the addition of the language*

*WHEREAS, Peck's Manhattan Beach Tract Block 5 ("Block 5"), part of the property commonly known as "Bruce's Beach," in the City of Manhattan Beach, is currently owned by the County of Los Angeles ("County") **and is located in the ancestral homelands of the Gabrielino Tongva People;***

2. Meet with tribal elected representatives, tribal Elders and cultural practitioners, youth, artists and other interested community members from the Gabrielino Tongva tribal communities to learn about their priorities for their ancestral homelands in the context of current government efforts to address past and ongoing acts of injustice via land return;
3. Create a County Reparations and Rematriation Advisory Task Force to identify, examine and assess the ways in which current and future County-led efforts to bring about racial justice and healing can better inform, support, and compliment one another. Such a task force must include representatives from the California Native American Tribes on whose ancestral homelands Los Angeles County is built.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss our requests in greater detail. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Angela Mooney D'Arcy
Executive Director